

## Summary of Youbou Community Association, 2016

The Youbou Community Association has just celebrated its second birthday and is moving into three years of existence within our community.

The Youbou Community Association started with several like minded people getting together and recognizing that our community needed to have a voice in topics that affect Youbou. We needed to have a group to initiate social activities and a group that could work with other existing groups to offer community support.

After canvassing attendees at our local Christmas Craft Fair there were 22 people interested in forming this association. There was no stopping us now.

This past year has been a very productive one as we were after more than a year of fund raising able to purchase event insurance to host events in our community. With the support of Cowichan Lake Recreation we have done just that!!

Shortly after this we recieved our license from the BC Gaming Commission. We currently have over 120 members in our Community Association. We have an active "Executive Board" which meets on a monthly basis as well as hosting General Meetings throughout the year. We publish a Youbou newsletter monthly called "The Youbou Connector" which is sent via email to our members as well as offering printed copies available in our local businesses. We maintain a very active Facebook Page, which currently has 136 members.

We hosted our first annual "Fun Raiser" on St Patrick's Day. This event was not only a fundraiser but also a social event at our local coffee shop. We paid Mary Egan to provide live music for our event.

We then decided that with the news of "Sunfest" coming to our area that we would like to host a one day Talent Showcase and Craft Fair to coincide with the time of Sunfest. This required much fundraising and organization by a very active board of YCA members and other community members.

We hosted the "West of Sunfest" Event on July 29th at the Youbou Community Hall. This was a great success with incredible community support from members and non-members. Some of the funding for this event was supplied by Area I of the CVRD.

We offered our support to Cowichan Lake Recreation as they celebrated Youbou Lanes 65th Birthday on July 16, 2016. We hosted a chili cook off with local residents providing pots of chili to be entered into the competition. We provided second and third place prizes for this event, while CLR provided the first place prize.

We hosted our first Community Wide Clean up on May 13, 2016. We organized trucks and helpers to pick up residents garbage and haul it to the dump for free. This was very well recieved with 5 trucks driving and one garbage bin being filled at the end of the day.

We offered our support once again to Cowichan Recreations' Youbou Regatta on Aug. 8, 2016. We participated in the parade through town and our vice chairman Mike Bishop once again acted as parade marshall. The YCA sold cotton candy at the event at Arbutus Park and also hosted a "Funky Chicken Bingo" The day was a fun and lively one for everyone involved.

The YCA hosted our first "Movie Night" at the Youbou Community Hall on September 24, 2017. Two more movie nights followed with more community members coming out for the free movie and popcorn.

The month of October was a busy one as members of our executive offered their support to the "Haunted House" that was offered at the Community Hall. Previous to this the YCA along with Cassy's

Coffee House hosted Youbou's First "Zombie Walk". This was a very fun event with "walkers" walking down Youbou Road to a private residence for a bonfire and weiner roast. Before any of these events the YCA held it's first "Fall Clean Up" on October 8th. This time we had even more volunteers, more trucks and filled 2 bins with residents garbage fore free.

In December the Youbou Community Association decided to sponsor a "Christmas Dinner Hamper" to local famillies in need. The Association asked members to donate and were overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. December 20th ten hampers were delivered to local residents.

While these events have been hosted by our Community Association we have also worked on these projects:

Yount School Revitalization- Our organization has recognized the opportunity available to our community by revitalizing this now defunct school. After several public meetings with community members and officials we felt it was best to have some advice from an outside source to advise us on the most viable way to revitalize the school. We have entered into an agreement with Royal Roads University to do just that. Paperwork was completed and we are currently awaiting Royal Roads University's involvement later this year.

Opening up existing Public Access to the Lake-Our organization is committed to opening up 6 desinated "Public Access" areas in Youbou and this project continues to move forward with the involvement of the Ministry of Transport and CVRD.

Liason with TimberWest- Our Association has been involved with Timber West since the installation of the existing "truck wash" west of our community. TimberWest has committed to keeping a line of communication open between them and our Community Association.

Revitalizing our Community-Our Association has identified some signs and other points of interest that need to be revitalized. We have already overseen the revitalization of our "Youbou" sign and look forward to revitalizing the flower box below our sign. We have a few more signs on our list and will continue to work on these with community members and the CVRD.

Our Association has offered our support not only to community members but to community organizations. We have executive board members who are also members of: Youbou Community Church Society, Cowichan Lake and Area Chamber of Commerce, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, Cowichan Valley Regional District Parks Commission.

Our Community Association has worked very, very hard, we started off with no financial backing and have worked very hard to be in the position we are in today. We feel like we are just finally breaking our stride. We remain as committed, if not more so to our little community. Looking forward to 2017 our schedules are even busier. Thank you Youbou for your support.